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April 11, 2007

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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: ***Ex Parte Communication***
High Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No.
96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Yesterday, I talked on the phone with Ian Dillner in Chairman Martin's office regarding the letter to Commissioner Tate and Commissioner Baum that Windstream filed on April 2, 2007, in the dockets listed above. During the conversation I reiterated Windstream's position that, although important to sustainability of the fund, controlling the growth of the size of the fund should be a starting point, not an end goal, for universal service reform. I argued that in addition to recommending measures to control fund size growth, the Joint Board should make specific recommendations for urgently needed and long overdue fundamental reform. We also discussed Windstream's specific suggestions for reform. The discussion was consistent with positions Windstream has already described in record of this proceeding and in the April 2nd letter.

You may reach me by email (eric.n.einhorn@windstream.com) or by phone in my DC office (202-997-9387) if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

/s/

Eric N. Einhorn

cc (by e-mail):

Ian Dillner